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REMARKS

Claims 1-10, and 20-27 were considered by the Examiner. Claims 1-10 are allowed.

Claims 20 and 23-27 stand rejected by Examiner. Claims 21 and 22 are objected to by Examiner.

In this response, claims 21 and 23-27 have been cancelled. Claim 20 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of objected to claim 21. Claim 22 have been amended to depend on amended claim 20. Therefore, claims 1-10, 20, and 22 are pending.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include reference characters not mentioned in the description. Corrected FIGS. 1, 4, and 5 have removed reference items 108 and 64.

Replacement figures have been provided for FIGS 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 with typewritten reference numerals.

Specification

The specification is objected to because the naming element 106 was used inconsistently in Paragraph 2. Paragraph 2 has been amended to consistently refer to naming element 106 as "diaphragm 106".

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. Sec. 103

Claims 20 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fuminori et.al. Japanese Patent Publication 06-339192.

Claim 20

Claim 20 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter in claim 21. Applicant respectfully submits that amended claim 20 is allowable.

Claim 23

Claim 23 has been cancelled.

Claims 24-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fuminori as applied to claim 23 above, and further in view of Nakabayashi U.S. Patent No. 6,738,484.

Claims 24-27

Claims 24-27 have been cancelled.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-10 are allowed.

Claims 21 and 22 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 21

Claim 21 has been cancelled. The limitations of claim 21 have been incorporated into amended claim 20. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 20 is allowable.

Claim 22

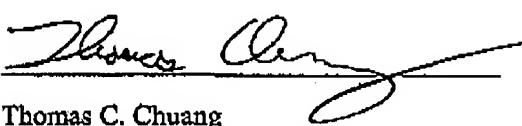
Claim 22 has been amended to be dependent upon amended claim 20. Applicant respectfully submits that pending claim 22 is allowable at least for the reasons set forth for claim 20.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 

Thomas C. Chuang
Law Office of Thomas Chuang
473 Jackson St.
Floor 3
San Francisco, CA 94111
U.S. PTO Reg. 44,616
Phone: 415.274.2598